



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 59

January Session, 2009

House Bill No. 6415

House of Representatives, March 11, 2009

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. WALKER of the 93rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO PLACE ABUSED
AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN IN THE CARE OF FAMILIES RATHER
THAN INSTITUTIONS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2009*) (a) The Commissioner of Children
2 and Families shall establish a pilot program to (1) place children, who
3 are in the custody or care of the commissioner pursuant to an order of
4 temporary custody or an order of commitment, in a family setting with
5 qualified foster parents or relative caregivers rather than in an
6 institutional or congregate facility, such as a group home, hospital,
7 state institution, receiving home, custodial institution or other
8 residential treatment facility, and (2) transfer such children currently
9 living in such an institutional or congregate facility to a family setting.
- 10 (b) The commissioner shall select children for the pilot program to
11 maximize cost savings to the state but shall ensure that the placement
12 is in the child's best interest.

13 (c) Not later than October 1, 2010, the commissioner shall report, in
14 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
15 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
16 matters relating to appropriations and the select committee of the
17 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children
18 concerning the results of the pilot program. The report shall include:
19 (1) The number and ages of the children served in the pilot program;
20 (2) the dates each child participated in the pilot program; (3) for each
21 child transferred from an institutional or congregate facility to a family
22 setting, the period of time each child lived in such a facility; (4) the
23 estimated cost to the state for each child if the child had been placed,
24 or remained, in an institutional or congregate facility and a brief
25 explanation of the method for calculating the estimates; (5) the cost for
26 services associated with the placement of each child in a family setting;
27 and (6) for each child transferred from an institutional or congregate
28 facility to a family setting, a brief statement comparing the child's well-
29 being in the institutional or congregate facility with the child's well-
30 being in the family setting.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	New section
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HS *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 10 \$	FY 11 \$
Children & Families, Dept.	GF - Uncertain	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 10 \$	FY 11 \$
Various Municipalities	Uncertain	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill requires the Department of Children and Families to implement a pilot program that is intended to move children from institutional or congregate settings, or prevent their placement in the same, by utilizing family settings instead.

The fiscal impact of the pilot program cannot be determined in advance. Factors affecting the ultimate impact would include: The number of participants selected; the cost of the congregate setting from which each child is diverted; expenses associated with meeting each child's needs in a family setting, which may require the expansion of existing state-funded community-based services or the development of new community-based services; and the extent to which each child is successfully maintained in the family setting. Federal financial participation would also be impacted as the value or type of services offered to participants is altered, affecting reimbursements under the Medicaid or Title IV-E programs.

Various local education authorities (LEAs) may also be impacted to the extent that costs of educating participant children for whom there is a nexus for educational purposes may vary depending upon the

child's residence.

No funding specific to a pilot program to divert children from congregate care settings has been included within the Governor's Recommended FY 10-11 Budget.

It is anticipated that the department will be able to submit the required report by 10/1/10 within its normally budgeted resources.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation and the duration of the pilot project.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6415*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO PLACE ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN IN THE CARE OF FAMILIES RATHER THAN INSTITUTIONS.*****SUMMARY:**

The bill directs the Department of Children and Families (DCF) commissioner to establish a pilot program to (1) place children in family settings rather than institutional or congregate facilities, and (2) transfer children already in these facilities into family settings. It requires the commissioner to report on the pilot program's results to the Appropriations and Children's committees by October 1, 2010. The bill does not specify how many children the pilot program must serve.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2009

PILOT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED

The bill requires the DCF commissioner to establish a pilot program to (1) place children in a family setting with qualified foster parents or relative caregivers instead of in an institutional or congregate facility, and (2) transfer children currently in these institutional or congregate facilities into a family setting. Under the bill, an institutional or congregate facility includes a group home, hospital, state institution, receiving home, custodial institution, or other residential treatment facility.

The pilot program covers children in DCF custody or care pursuant to a temporary custody order or commitment order. When selecting participants, the commissioner must maximize cost savings and also ensure that the placement is in the child's best interest.

REPORT

The report must include:

1. the number, ages, and participation dates of the pilot program participants;
2. for children transferred from an institutional or congregate facility to a family setting, the period of time each child lived in such a facility;
3. the estimated state cost for each child if the child had been placed or remained in an institutional or congregate facility and a brief explanation of how these estimates were calculated;
4. service costs associated with placing each child in a family setting; and
5. for each child transferred from an institutional or congregate facility to a family setting, a brief statement comparing the child's well-being in the institutional or congregate facility and the family setting.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 15 Nay 3 (02/26/2009)